

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Soren Stammers et al.

Serial No.: Unknown

Filed: Even Date Herewith

Docket: 491.036US1

Title: PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**BOX PATENT APPLICATION**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Before taking up the above-identified continuation application for examination, please amend the application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, before the first sentence, please insert the following paragraph :

-- Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application is a continuation of International Patent Application No.

PCT/GB99/01390, filed on 5 May 1999, which in turn is an international filing of British Patent

Application No. 9809670.4, filed on 6 May 1998, and of British Patent Application No.

9814615.2, filed on 6 July 1998, all of which are incorporated herein by reference. --

After page 112, please insert the attached Abstract of the Disclosure.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

In claim 3, line 1, please delete "or claim 2".

In claim 4, line 1, please delete "any preceding claim" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

In claim 6, line 1, please delete "any preceding claim" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

In claim 8, line 1, please delete "or claim 7".

In claim 9, line 1, please delete "any preceding claim" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

In claim 12, line 1, please delete "any preceding claim" and insert therefor --claim 1--.